

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 12-13, and 109-125 are pending, with claims 1 and 115 being independent. Claims 2, 7-11, and 14-108 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-6, and 12-13 have been amended. Claims 109-125 have been added. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the written description, claims, and drawings as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant thanks the Examiner for courtesy extended during the telephone interview of September 8, 2010. Examiner Siu M. Lee and Applicant's representative Michael R. Nye participated in the interview. No exhibit was shown or demonstration conducted. The pending rejections and cited art mentioned below were generally discussed. Agreement was reached that, subject to further search and consideration, the subject matter embodied in the above claim amendments appeared to define over the art of record.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-16, 21-31, 36-38, 42-49, 53-60, 64-67, 72-80, and 85-90 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,717,997 ("Cranford") in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0006851 ("Wood"). Claims 7, 20, 34, 71, and 84 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranford in

view of Wood and U.S. Pat. No. 5,610,911 (“Ishikawa”). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Because claim 1 as amended includes limitations similar to those of claim 7, Applicant will discuss claim 1 in light of Ishikawa, which was relied upon in the rejection of claim 7.

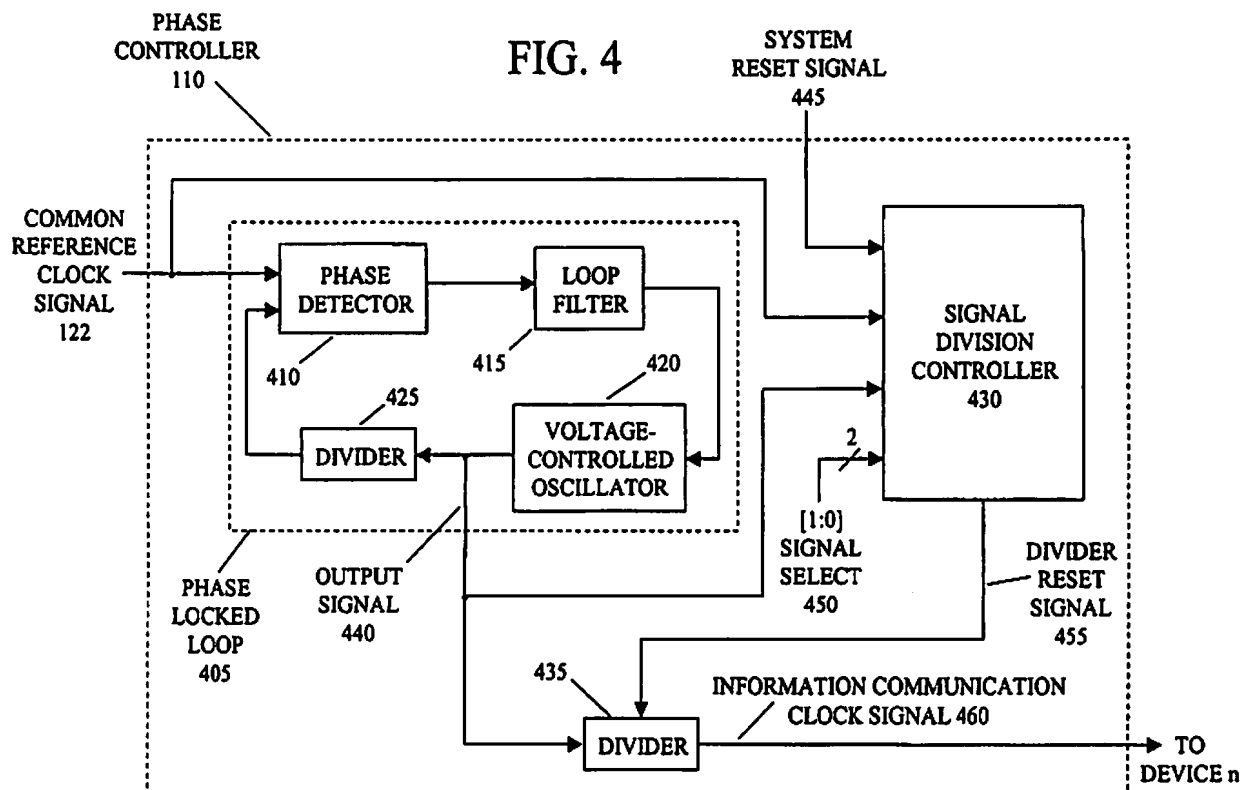
Claim 1 recites a phase controller including a phase locked loop configured to generate an output signal based on a common reference clock signal; a signal division controller configured to generate a divider reset signal based on the common reference clock signal, the output signal, and a select signal; and a divider configured to generate one of the information communication clock signals by performing frequency division of the output signal based on the divider reset signal, wherein the divider reset signal controls a start time of the frequency division.

A. Cranford and Wood do not teach or suggest a phase controller of the kind recited in claim 1.

While the Examiner asserts that Cranford teaches a phase locked loop, the Examiner has not asserted that Cranford or Wood teach or suggest the other features of the phase controller, and instead relies on Ishikawa.

B. Ishikawa does not teach or suggest a phase controller of the kind recited in claim 1.

For purposes of illustration only, FIG. 4 of the present application shows a signal division controller 430 configured to generate a divider reset signal 455 based on a common reference clock signal 122, an output signal 440 from a phase locked loop 405, and a select signal 450:



By contrast, Ishikawa discloses (see FIG. 3, reproduced below) a sync signal phase control 14 that controls a frequency divider 13. The sync signal phase control 14 does not correspond to the signal division controller of claim 1. First, Ishikawa does not disclose a phase locked loop. Therefore, Ishikawa could not teach or suggest that the sync signal phase control 14 generates a divider reset signal based on an output of a phase locked loop, as claim 1 requires.

Further, Ishikawa does not disclose that the sync signal phase control 14 generates a divider reset signal based on a common reference clock signal, which is an input to the phase locked loop, as claim 1 also requires. Therefore, Ishikawa could not teach or suggest generating a divider reset signal based both on an input to a phase locked loop and an output of the phase locked loop, as claim 1 requires.

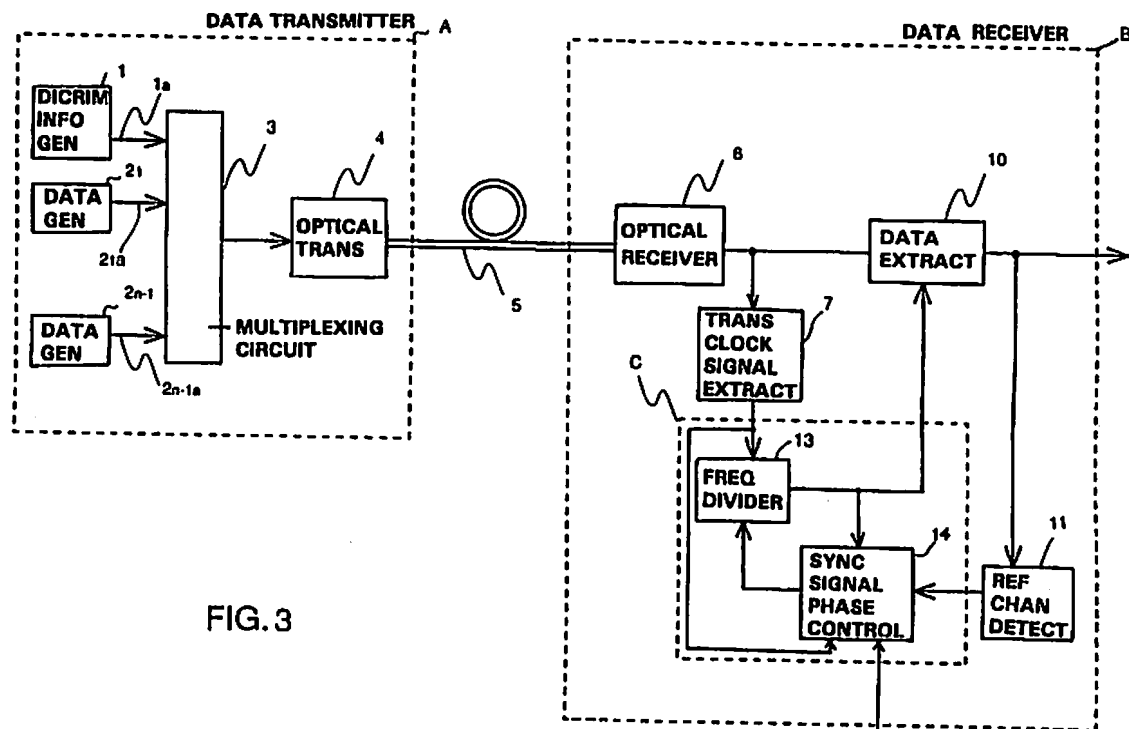


FIG. 3

C. Claim 1 has limitations not taught by any reference.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 defines over the cited art.

D. Dependent Claims

Applicant respectfully notes that claim 3, 5, 12, and 13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Applicant's position with respect to claims 3, 5, 12, and 13 should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of claims 3, 5, 12, and 13 exist. Applicant reserves the right to address these other reasons at a later date if needed.

E. Other Rejections

Claims 91-93, 96-102, and 105-108 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranford in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0197498 ("Watanabe")

and Wood. Claims 4, 17, 32, 39, 50, 61, 68, and 81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranford in view of Wood and Watanabe. Claims 6, 19, 35, 41, 52, 63, 70, and 83 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranford in view of Wood and EP0903660 ("Graef"). Claims 95 and 104 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranford in view of Watanabe, Wood, and Ishikawa. Claims 94 and 103 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranford in view of Watanabe, Wood, and Graef. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

First, although a US patent issued to Graef, US6305001, is already listed on the PTO-892 form, Applicant respectfully requests that the cited European patent application of Graef, EP0903660, also be listed on the PTO-892 for completeness.

Applicant respectfully submits that Watanabe and Graef do not remedy the deficiencies of Cranford, Wood, and Ishikawa with respect to claim 1. Claims 4 and 6 depend from claim 1 and are therefore in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons. Applicant respectfully submits that new independent claim 115 is in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons as claim 1. New claims 109-114, and 116-125 ultimately depend from one of independent claims 1 or 115 and are therefore also in condition for allowance. The remaining claims have been cancelled. Applicant's position with respect to claims 4, 6, and 109-125 should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of claims 4, 6, and 109-125 exist. Applicant reserves the right to address these other reasons at a later date if needed.

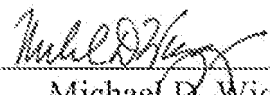
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly addressed. For all of the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. By addressing particular positions taken by the Examiner in the above remarks, Applicant does not acquiesce to other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, Applicant's arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will allow any outstanding issues to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Michael D. Wiggins
Reg. No. 34,754

Michael R. Nye
Reg. No. 62,126

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MDW/MRN/ma